

Proof that A115431, A116117, and A116135 are the same

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February 20, 2019

A115421 is “Numbers n such that the concatenation of n with $n - 2$ gives a square.” A116117 is “Numbers n such that n concatenated with $n - 6$ gives the product of two numbers which differ by 4.” A116135 is “Numbers n such that n concatenated with $n - 3$ gives the product of two numbers which differ by 2.”

If $n - 2$ has d digits, the concatenation of n with $n - 2$ is $(10^d + 1)n - 2$. This is y^2 if and only if $(10^d + 1)n - 3 = (y + 1)(y - 1)$ is the product of two numbers which differ by 2, and if and only if $(10^d + 1)n - 6 = y^2 - 6 = (y + 2)(y - 2)$ is the product of two numbers which differ by 4. The only cases where n can be in one of these sequences and not the others is when $n - 2$ and $n - 6$ have different numbers of digits: if $n = 10^m + j$ where $2 \leq j \leq 5$, then $n - 2$ has $d = m + 1$ digits but $n - 6$ has fewer. Thus we must consider when

$$F(j, m) = (10^{m+1} + 1)(10^m + j) - 2 = 10^{2m+1} + j \cdot 10^{m+1} + 10^m + j - 2$$

can be a square, for j from 2 to 5. This is in fact the case for $m = 0, j = 5$, as $F(5, 0) = 64$ is a square and $10^0 + 5 - 3 = 3 > 10^0$ but $10^0 + 5 - 6 = 0 < 10^0$, but we still consider 0 to have one digit so this doesn't produce a difference between the sequences. From now on we will assume $m \geq 1$.

Since $F(j, m) \equiv j - 2 \pmod{10}$, $j - 2$ must be a square mod10. This rules out $j = 4$ and $j = 5$, as 2 and 3 are not squares mod10. Similarly, $F(j, m) \equiv 2j \pmod{9}$, so this must be a square mod9. This rules out $j = 3$. The only remaining possibility is $j = 2$, with $F(2, m) = 10^{2m+1} + 2 \cdot 10^{m+1} + 10^m = 10^m(10^{m+1} + 21)$. Since 10^m and $10^{m+1} + 21$ are coprime, for this to be a square would require $10^{m+1} + 21$ to be a square, and that is impossible because 21 is not a square mod1000 (and $F(2, 1) = 1210$ is not a square).